



US Forest Service

Rim Fire Recovery

Weekly Update

General Background:

Date: Sept. 11, 2014

The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and eventually burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response work to address immediate hazards has been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring. The Stanislaus National Forest has produced:

1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads. The Rim HT EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014. Implementing contracts for this project have been awarded.
2. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rim Fire Recovery Project proposes to lessen the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading and capture the perishable economic value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage. Up to 33,083 acres that will be available for salvage when combined with the additional hazard tree removal. The EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) are available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033. Implementation is scheduled for early September.

Update for the week of Sept. 11, 2014:

Director:

- Barbara Drake, the new Rim Fire Recovery Director, reported on Sept. 8.
- Team meetings will now proceed on the first Tuesday of every month, at 8 a.m., with all team members attending.
- Core team members will also meet at 8 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.
- Meeting notes will now be produced bi-weekly, after team meetings.

Logistics:

- Remaining Rim Fire Recovery Team members will begin occupying new offices on Oct. 3rd as the building lease expires on the 12th.
- End of season dates for temporary employees are needed in order to plan housing and vehicle requirements.

Communications:

- Forest PAO is now supervising the information shop.
- Sonora Kiwanis and the Groveland Garden Club were recently updated on the Rim Fire Recovery Project.
- Fall version of the Rim Fire Recovery newspaper is in the editorial process and will be out soon.
- Jennifer Chapman from the National Park Service will be backfilling behind Georgia Dempsey, Rim Fire Recovery PAO, from Sept. 20th through Oct. 14th.

Partnerships:

- Repair work on OHV trails in the Mi-Wok area is progressing.

- The National Forest Foundation and the Boy Scouts of America are collaborating to see if there is a way for regional Boy Scouts to help with reforestation efforts.

Administrative:

- Preparing an update package for new director regarding staffing.
- Please inform us when temporary employees are expected to finish their tour.

Questions about Rim Fire Recovery efforts? Please contact:
Rim Fire Recovery Information (209) 288-2119.

Rim Fire Recovery Sign Challenge



Want to participate in the Rim Fire Recovery Sign Challenge? Contact Clare Long at 209-288-2118 if your community organization would like to join the fun. Numerous signs burned in the Rim Fire have yet to be replaced.